



Food for Thought

Dr. Andrea Broomfield, associate professor, English, reads a lot into food – nationality, class, morals, gender and power. Her

enthusiasm and knowledge about food and cooking in Victorian England are as enticing as a slice of her almond tea cake. Broomfield will be the second JCCC College Scholar for the 2008-2009 school year, giving two lectures that are free and open to the public.

■ *The Night the Good Ship Went Down: Three Fateful Dinners Aboard the Titanic, and What They Tell Us About Class, Nationality and Power on the Eve of World War I* at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, in the M.R. and Evelyn Hudson Auditorium, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art

■ *Gingerbread Fairings and Gooseberry Fools: What Food Can Tell Us About Character and Plot in Victorian Novels* at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 20, Craig Community Auditorium, General Education Building


In her evening lecture, Broomfield focuses on the three dinners served in first-, second- and third-class dining saloons the night before the Titanic sank, and what the meals suggest about the intersections of class and nationality on April 15, 1912, the eve of World War I. She raises questions: What did food suggest about the aspirations and expectations of the immigrants on board the ship? Broomfield's examination of food aboard the maiden voyage of the luxury steamer will tell the audience much about a passenger's status or lack thereof.

The daytime lecture will discuss meals in reference to characters and scenes in select Victorian novels, elaborating on what food tells the reader about characters in regards to their gender, (presumed) morals, class and region and how an understanding of food enhances appreciation of Victorian fiction in general.

Broomfield completed a PhD at Temple University in Victorian literature with a focus on feminist and cultural studies. Her background in Victorian women's issues, particularly those related to suffrage, employment and education, led to her current work in culinary history, primarily Victorian English food.

Her archival research, conducted at libraries in the United States and United Kingdom, combined with her practical experience cooking on period equipment at the Living History Farms, Urbandale, Iowa, culminated in the publication of *Food and Cooking in Victorian England: A History* (Praeger-Greenwood P, 2006).

She is co-editor of *Prose by Victorian Women: An Anthology*, and has written numerous articles and book chapters on Victorian literature and culinary history.

For more information, about the JCCC College Scholars program, contact Patti Ward, interim honors program facilitator, 913-469-8500, ext. 2512. 

Faculty

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